1031
3

THE OCCASIONAL CRITIQUE: ON EDUCATION.

PROPOSING

New Scheme of Grammar, and Method of Instruction; by which the grounds of any language may be learn'd *in a few hours*, ſo as to read an author, and write intelligibly.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

Letter to Mr. *Boyer* concerning his *French Grammar*.
Hint to Mr. *Altieri* for the advantage of his *Italian Grammar*.
Challenge to Dr. *Freind* concerning the *Weſtminſter Grammar*:

WITH

ANIMADVERSIONS on the firſt fifty lines of the etymology and ſyntax: by which it appears, that, beſide Barbariſms, Soleciſms, and Poor-ſhifts in the *latin*; Falſe-quantity, Cacophony, and Ekings-out in the *verſe*; there are many Blunders in the *ſenſe*, much Obſcurity in the *manner*, and innumerable Defects in the *matter*; notwithſtanding the Superfluities have ſwell'd them to twice as many as need be. *And* AN EMENDATION of thoſe fifty lines, done in the compaſs of twenty one, by a *boy* of fourteen years of age, and three years ſtanding: in which the obſcurities are clear'd, and the errors corrected; to the reproach of thoſe *gentlemen*, who (notwithſtanding their great abilities) are continually altering the grammar, to ſo little purpoſe.

By SOLOMON LOWE.

LONDON:
Printed for S. BALLARD in *Little-Britain*, J. NOON in *Cheapſide*, T. WOODWARD in *Fleet-Street*, and J. POTE *at the Golden-Door, Charing-Croſs*.
MDCCXXVIII.

A PROPOSAL OF A NEW Scheme of Grammar, AND Method of Inſtruction;

BY WHICH

The grounds of a language may be learn'd in a few hours, ſo as to read an author, and write intelligibly.

AS the knowlege of the languages is the only means of commerce, and key to the ſciences; as *Grammar* is the art acquiring that knowlege; and, upon the method of grammar, by which children are firſt enter'd upon ſtudy and reflexion, depends, in a great meaſure, the ſucceſs of their whole education: [1] it is certainly of very great importance to have *very good ones*.

[1] It being very certain, that a dark and blundering way of conducting the thoughts of children, even in their earlieſt ſtudies, leaves a ſtrong habit of confuſion upon their minds, throughout the whole courſe of their lives; as has been well obſerv'd by Mr. JOHNSON *in his Apparatus to a New National Grammar, by way of Animadverſion upon the Falſities, Obſcurities, Redundancies, and Defects of* Lily's *Syſtem. pref. p.* 8.

ſhort and plain SCHEME OF GRAMMAR *full and accura*

AT preſent, *thoſe, which are generally receiv'd,* are ſo tedious, becauſe ill-contriv'd; [2] that children are taught like parrots, and grown people quite diſhearten'd from entering on ſo laborious a work: [3] ſo that much time is ſpent to attain what moſt are ambitious of, and generally to very little purpoſe. Were it not for this; and the remembrance of what they have undergone, chiefly on this account; doubtleſs thoſe, who are ſenſible of the many advantages they have loſt (through their own inattention when children, or the indiſcretion of their maſters) not only in the article of pleaſure, but in that of credit and profit alſo; though they had but little leiſure from their neceſſary occupations, would be glad to beſtow ſome of it on ſo uſeful a part of learning, whic has always been look'd upon as th foundation and embelliſhment of a the reſt. [4]

IT muſt be confeſs'd, that it is n ſmall addition to the diſcouragemen when, if they have occaſion to lea any of the living languages, they fi that the ways to them too are almo as tedious and perplext as thoſe t the latin and greek, in which pe haps they have long plodded to litt purpoſe. One would think inde that thoſe gentlemen, who ha writ grammars with a particu regard to the fair ſex, would ha taken particular care to cut the w as ſhort, and make it as clear as po ſible. Yet ſo it is, that even *moſt celebrated of the moderns* ha run their grammar-inſtructions ſo

---

[2] For the truth of this obſervation, ſee Mr. LEWIS's *Eſſay to facilitate Education of Youth*; Mr. JOHNSON's *Apparatus to a New National Grammar*, w the *Teſtimonials of the moſt* EMINENT MASTERS *of our great Publick Schools a their Remonſtrances againſt* Lily; and *MY Critiques on the late Lean of* Rochelle *Grammar, and that of the King's School at* Weſtminſter.

[3] For the juſtice of this Complaint, I may appeal to *the experience of multitude* and therefore ſhall quote *the authority of two or three only*, whom every body w allow to be good judges. " It is deplorable (*ſays* Mr. COWLEY) to conſider t " loſs, which children make of their time at moſt ſchools; employing (or rat " caſting-away) ſix or ſeven years in the learning of words only; and that t " very imperfectly. *A propoſition for the advancement of natural philoſophy*, p. " It has been long (*ſays* Mr. MILTON) a general complaint not without cau " in the bringing-up of youth; and ſtill is: that the tenth part of man's life, or " narily extended, is taken up in learning, and that very ſcarcely, the la " tongue. *Accedence commenc'd grammar. pref.* p. 1. And hence it is that " one may give himſelf a ſatisfactory account (*as* Mr. HOADLY *has obſerv'd*) w " of ſo many thouſands that ſpend many years at ſchool, there are ſo few that " ſcholars; and of ſo few ſcholars, why there are ſo many bunglers at every g " work: and, even in latin, the great work of their lives, hardly one *Milto* " found in an age. *An introduction to uſeful learning.* p. 4.

[4] Even the great *Cicero* was ſo far from being aſham'd to ſpend his time th that (no doubt) he found his accounts in it: and therefore (notwithſtanding great engagements of his high office, and daily employment at the bar) he to all the opportunities he could of going to ſchool, with other perſons of diſtinct to one *Gnipho*, a good-natur'd gentleman, and grammarian of note in thoſe da " *Marcus Antonius Gnipho* comi fuit facilique natura, &c. Scholam ejus cla " quoque viros frequentaſſe aiunt; in his *M. Ciceronem* [poſt laborem fori. *Mac* " *Sat.* iii. 12.] etiam cum prætura fungeretur. *Sueton. de grammat.* ix. 2.

ch a length, as is enough to deter e moſt enterprizing of the moſt rious ſex: ſo that they are gene-lly content to take up with a few miliar phraſes, rather than appear norant of thoſe languages, which e now regarded as the neceſſary rts of a genteel education.

ABBOT *Antonini*'s Italian gram-ar was compos'd for the uſe of the *een* of France, and Mr. *Boyer*'s ench grammar is entitled the ench-maſter for *ladies* and gentle-en: and yet (to mention but one icle) both of them have ſwell'd doctrin of verbs only into a mat- of *fifty* pages; whereas, when ionally diſpos'd, it may be preſen- at one view, with the moſt af-ting evidence, within the com-s of *two*.

THIS *being the ſtate of grammar-rning*; it is no great wonder that w underſtand more than their mo-r-tongue; and, that, even in that, meet with ſuch a deal of impro-ty, unintelligibleneſs, and abſur-y, amongſt people of all ranks, atever occaſion they have of ſet-g pen to paper.

To *remedy this evil*, it ſeem'd to to be neceſſary to reduce the art a moderate compaſs; not only caſting out what is foreign to it, by adjuſting the whole on phi-ophical principles. Hereby I found the grounds of any language ght be caſt into an inſtructive m; in which the diſtinction of parts, and the ſymmetry of the ole, as of a well-proportion'd ure, might ſo ſenſibly affect the and imagination, as to aſſiſt the mory and judgment; ſo that the d would receive the impreſſion ner, retain it longer, apply it bet-ter, and conſult it, on all occaſions, with more eaſe, expedition, and ad-vantage, than can be expected, even from the beſt ſyſtems, in which the doctrin is diffus'd into a great many pages.

TO *execute this deſign* to the beſt advantage, I began with the latin; which is, beyond controverſy, the beſt of languages, on the account of its extenſive uſefulneſs, not only for the attainment of the ſciences, and for the ſervice of travellers; but alſo becauſe it is the readieſt help to all other languages, that contain any thing of importance, either for the improvement of the mind, or for the conduct of life.

THAT *my grammar of this language* might anſwer the idea I had form'd, and the expectations of the learned; I ſpent a great deal of time upon it; and diligently us'd all the helps that could be had from books, converſation, and correſpondence by letter; and, that I might be the bet-ter aſſur'd of it, I publiſh'd the big-ger half, by way of ſpecimen, above a year before I finiſh'd the whole; at the ſame time ſoliciting the learn-ed, by repeated public advertiſe-ments, and abundance of private letters, to aſſiſt me with their ob-ſervations. By this means I obtain'd very conſiderable helps from ſeveral very ingenious gentlemen, who were ſo kind as to communicate their re-marks; among whom, I am in a particular manner indebted to ſeve-ral perſons of quality; upon whoſe obſervations on the conſtitution of human minds, and the variety of their operations, I have model'd ſome parts of the plan, and improv'd others.

Beſide this aſſiſtance of my friends; that I might omit no means of work-

ing it up to the higheſt perfection, I put a force on my temper, and publiſh'd critiques on the moſt celebrated grammars, to procure the ſevereſt animadverſions. Thus, with indefatigable application for ſeveral years, I finiſh'd the work, which I have lately propos'd as *every way better than any, and more comprehenſive than all the grammars yet extant.*

HAVING laid this foundation, I was better able to judge what was of moſt moment for initiating; and therefore, encourag'd by the indulgent regards of his moſt gracious Majeſty, and the kind acceptance my grammar has met with from my country-men, out of a particular concern for the eaſy and expeditious inſtruction of the young Prince; I made *an abſtract* of the moſt general and neceſſary precepts; which I caſt into the form that I conceiv'd would be moſt inſtructive, and printed *on one ſide of a ſheet of paper:* wherein I have comprehended, with all manner of advantages, every thing in Lily (much more the Weſtminſter grammar) except a few particulars; the want of which I have abundantly compenſated by the addition of ſeveral generals of much more importance.

THIS having been receiv'd into ſeveral ſchools, both in town and country; I conſider'd what would be propereſt for children; and, for their uſe am, now republiſhing it in a more commodious form *in octavo:* in which, though the whole could not be preſented at one view, as in the table; yet the fundamentals are laid out in four pages; in two oppoſit, the doctrin of analogy; in two others, that of ſyntax; and the leſs neceſſary notices regularly diſpo in the remainder. So that, all t inſtructions being diſtinguiſh'd a cording to their ſeveral degrees uſefulneſs, a child of the weakeſt c pacity may be led ſtep by ſtep, wit out being confounded by too ma attendances at once, or puzzled find what he wants.

CONSIDERING therefore t conciſeneſs of this ſcheme, with the aforementioned advantages, a the additional helps that ariſe fro its being printed with variety letter, and chiming to the ear wi the cadence of verſe; it is eaſy ſee, and be ſatisfy'd (how incredi ſoever it may ſeem in the propoſ that *a grown perſon* of moderate c pacity may thereby be enabled learn the grounds of the langua within the compaſs of a few hou ſo as to read an author, and wr intelligibly.

FOR, having learn'd the vari accidents and inflexions of wo with the ſeveral manners of putti them together according to the c ſtom of the beſt writers [or rat by practiſing upon a few examp under each head, having got a neral idea of the whole, which pl ly appears to be but the buſineſs a few hours] *nothing is wanting the uſe of a dictionary*, either to co municate our own thoughts acco ing to the rules that lie in ſo ſma compaſs; or to enter into the me ing of what is writ, according thoſe rules, by another.

READILY *to unravel the p plexity of long periods*, in a langua that admits an unbounded variety tranſpoſitions (as in the latin greek) muſt indeed be the work ſome time; e're it can be expec

e and plain SCHEME OF GRAMMAR *full and accurate*

the underſtanding ſhall keep e with the run of the words.

To apprehend alſo *by the ear*, and *to k fluently*, are habits, that can only acquir'd by a good deal of practice. then it is very certain, that, en the ratio of a language is un-rſtood by a well proportion'd eme, that lies within the com-ſs of the eye and imagination: all reſt will come of courſe, with ndance more pleaſure, expedition, accuracy; than when we learn rote, or toil through a tedious ſtem, in which the ſymmetry of one article is hardly to be trac'd rough the intricacies of a long and contriv'd account. [5]

By the help therefore of ſuch a ſtem (what I have experienc'd in the uſe of it, others, I think, may rationally conclude from the nature of it, that) a grown perſon may do wonders in the learning of any language; eſpecially under the direction of *a judicious maſter*. At the ſame time I am ſenſible that the beſt means in the world may miſcarry in the hands of a bungler. Many a man may make a difficulty of cutting glaſs with a diamond: though it can eaſily be made appear, that it is not the fault of the tool; but the unskilfulneſs of the perſon, that uſes it.

WITH regard to *children*, the caſe is indeed very different. They can ſeldom be engag'd to a due attention; and their tender minds, being unaccuſtom'd to reflexion, muſt needs be incapable of perceiving the con-

[5] An *inſtance* will give a clearer notion of what I aim at. In the *Weſtminſter* ammar, in the article of the forming of verbs through the roots, from which all e other tenſes, &c. are deriv'd: if I doubt about any; with what a variety of zzling and diſtant attendances are my thoughts divided. *e. g.* To learn the roots *vere*.

If I would conſult the rules; I muſt begin in *p.* 14; and ſearch through every e, till I come at the indicative perfect: which before I can come-at in ſome rbs, I muſt begin a new ſearch in *p.* 17: and, if I do not find it in that ſet of les, I muſt go through part of *p.* 19, and *p.* 20. Then, for the participle, I muſt be-n in *p.* 20; run through all the rules and exceptions; and, if I do not meet with there, muſt renew my ſearch through *p.* 22, before I can be ſatisfied. Whereas my ſcheme (except a few lines of generals, which may be learn'd in a few minutes) e anſwers lie all together, in alphabetical order.

But, if I have learnt all the rules, and know where to find what I want: by what cumber of thoughts, and chain of inferences, muſt I arrive at the knowlege: *1ſt*, am to conſider that *ſpargo*, *claudo*, &c. change *-do* or *-go* into *-ſi*: *2dly*, I am told at *uro* doubles *s*: *3dly*, I am to gueſs that *-ro*, in like manner as *-do* or *-go*, is hang'd into *-ſi*: and, by theſe means, I arrive at the perfect tenſe *uſſi*. *p.* 14. *4thly*, pages further (*p.* 20.) I am told that *-ſi* after *p* makes *-tus*; *5thly*, that the per-ſect of *uro* does, in like manner, change its ending into *-tus*; and ſo I come at the rticiple *uſtus*: and the amount of all is, what I might have learn'd at once, to-ether with the engliſh, as in my grammar: *Urere uſſi uſtus*, to burn.

Now, if ſuch ſeparating the doctrin of but one article into ſo many parcels, in ch of which no ſettled order is obſerv'd, as to the diſpoſition of the precepts, by hich I can ſo much as gueſs in what part of the doctrin I can find it: if this I y will give no ſmall perplexity to the mind of a learner, as I believe every body's perience will aſſure them; how much more confuſion will the ſame conduct, in e reſt of the articles, create even to the moſt attentive and induſtrious?

connexion and dependance of their own ideas, much more of applying a great number of general rules to the various modifications of words in expreſſing them. And yet, even by children, when catch'd by the curioſity of an experiment, very extraordinary things may be done: of which I have the aſſurance and ſatisfaction by what I have lately try'd upon three of my ſcholars; of whom the leaſt, though but ten years of age, became maſter of the pronunciation and fundamentals of the *Italian*, in little more than an hour, by means of my aſſiſtance for twenty five minutes, and his own application for forty, as I have ſhew'd in a particular account, which I have given of that matter, in the *Britiſh Gazetteer* of *December* 24. 1726.

THERE is one *objection* indeed, which will naturally occur to every body; and which they will be apteſt to make, who want time or capacity to enter into my method, and yet are willing to be thought judges of it. And that is, that, being ſo ſhort, it muſt neceſſarily be too ſubtle and intricate, and not ſufficiently adapted to the inſtruction of children. In *anſwer* to this, it may be obſerv'd, that the obſcurity muſt either be in the manner of expreſſing the rules, or ariſe from the diſpoſition of them.

AS *to the rules themſelves*, I have conſider'd almoſt all the ways they have ever been expreſs'd in any language; and, as I look upon obſcurity to be the very worſt of faults in any compoſition whatſoever, much more in a ſyſtem of inſtructions drawn up for the uſe of ſuch as are but beginning to learn the uſe of words; I have endeavour'd, after comparing thoſe ways, and devi many others, to pitch upon t which appear'd, both in theory practice, to be moſt intelligible. that, though I am leaſt able to ju well in this affair, having fami riz'd every thought by contri how to expreſs it; I cannot eaſily pect myſelf to be very guilty on t head; eſpecially, as, amongſt all friends who have made this objecti I could never prevail with any point out ſo much as one particu

AS *to the diſpoſition of the ru* the extraordinary ſhortneſs of t work, which is chiefly owing that, is, I think an inconteſta proof of its being the moſt natur eaſy, and inſtructive. So that, things conſider'd, I yet ſee no reaſ to fear but that the rules are co ceiv'd in ſuch words, and diſpo in ſuch a manner, as will enable maſter to communicate the inſtru tions they are deſign'd to conve with greateſt eaſe to himſelf, and a vantage to his ſcholars; which I ta to be the true notion of perſpicuit

THERE is *another objection*, rather particular inſtance of what ſuppos'd in the former; which ſom gentlemen are apt to make again my ſcheme: and that is the uſe *paradigms* ſo different from an that have ever yet been publiſh'd which they are apt to look upon puzzling and unintelligible. In a ſwer to ſuch a ſurmiſe, I migh argue from the nature of the thin that in theſe paradigms (particular thoſe of verbs, which are the mo diffus'd and difficult) the terminat ons characteriſtic of the perſons, being brought cloſe together, an nicely correſponding to the ſever alterations of the ſervile letters

ch are ſo ſituated as to ſtrike the diſtinctly from both the radical ſervile: the harmony of the s, ſo adjuſted, muſt ſo ſenſibly t the underſtanding; that the le compaſs of the doctrin may ot without that difficulty, and prehended without that confu- which muſt needs ariſe from eing diffus'd into ſeveral pages, erplex'd with unneceſſary mix- s; as is the caſe of almoſt all nmars. So that, what is gene- made the labor of ſeveral ks, may be contracted into the paſs of an hour or two: and up in the mind much ſafer, and ier for uſe, by the aſſiſtance of all faculties; than when it is wrought the memory by the dint of fre- t repetitions, without any appre- ion of that uniformity in the rivance of the language, which, y draught, is ſo conſpicuous.

UT as thoſe, who are likelieſt nention this objection, may not ſily take-in the force of a rea- as be ſway'd by the authority *n experiment:* I refer them to preface of my grammar; where will find that I taught *a heed-lad*, under peculiar diſadvantages, whole declining of verbs in an 's time. Since which I had the oſity to try the ſame upon *a g tradeſman*, that knew nothing le matter; and enabled him to do it in leſs than half an hour: in which time, it is evident, I think, from the nature of the contrivance; that the ſame may be done by any body of indifferent parts, with due attention.

THESE are the only objections worth mentioning, that have yet come to my knowlege: which I hope I have anſwer'd to the ſatiſfaction of the underſtanding and unprejudic'd. In confidence hereof, upon the ſame plan as the latin, and with the ſame views; for the uſe alſo of his Royal Highneſs the Duke of Cumberland; I deſign to proceed in drawing-up tables of the reſt of the moſt uſeful languages, unleſs prevented by the better contrivances of others. For this purpoſe I publiſh *the following letters*; that nothing, on my part, may be wanting, to engage the beſt hands, or to procure the beſt helps that may be: the rather, becauſe I am willing to hope that by the advantage of thoſe lights, which former grammarians have left us; and by the united endeavors of ſuch as may agree herein; or, by public authority, may be appointed thereto; ſomething may be done in this affair, for the glory of the preſent age, and for the benefit of poſterity, much more excellent than has ever yet been perform'd in any nation [6].

AS to *the method of inſtruction*, it muſt undoubtedly be very various; as

That *the reformation of grammar* has not been thought unworthy the concern of e in higheſt authority, appears from the attempts that have been made towards our own nation.

ing *Henry* VIII, willing to lay a good foundation for all kind of learning, by uring a good grammar inſtitution, caus'd ſundry learned men to reduce *the beſt* into one body, which he order'd to be taught in all the ſchools of his realm. ſo great was the influence of royal authority; that it ſtill continues in uſe in ſchools of Great Britain, notwithſtanding the many and great complaints that (eſpecially of late) been made againſt it by many of our moſt celebrated wri- and maſters of the ripeſt experience.

as it muſt be ſuited to the ſeveral ages, capacities, and other circumſtances of thoſe that are to be inſtructed. Something however may be ſuggeſted in general, which may be of uſe to the unexperienc'd; eſpecially with regard to their firſt ſetting out, wherein the chief difficulty conſiſts, and to which the ſpeed of the progreſs is principally owing. *To initiate* therefore to the beſt advantage, my advice is that the learner read much with a verbal tranſlation; talk frequently by the help of familiar dialogues; and, every day, tranſlate with a ſtrict regard to the rules of grammar; the fundamentals of which may be got by heart, and the reſt familiariz'd by frequent conſulting.

As to the buſineſs of *getting grammar*, it is generally ſo manag'd as to be an uſeleſs piece of drudgery. When therefore a lad is put upon learning the very plaineſt parts of his grammar, much more the metaphiſics of the art; it is my opinion that his maſter ſhould firſt teach him to read his leſſon; and, by familiar queſtions and canvaſings, give him ſo much underſtanding of it, as the nature of the thing will allow the capacity of the child can a Hereby ſome uſeful ſenſe wi company the right ſounds; and will paſs ſooner into the mind, be turn'd to uſe with abund more advantage, than can reaſo be expected from the common thods of getting grammar: eſp ally if the lad be put upon dra it forth into practice, by wri ſuch exerciſes as are proper to f liarize and fix the notices. Fo ſtance, in the paradigms of de ſions, conjugations, *&c.* befo begins to get any of them, let firſt be taught to read them diſti ly, directing his eye and underſt ing to the radical letters, in the ginning of each pattern, that ar ways unalter'd; and carrying t through the ſeveral alteration the ſervile in the termination caſes, tenſes, perſons, *&c.* t in poëta, bona, amare, amo, any other examples, let him which letters are radical, w ſervile; diverſifying the latter t the endings of the paradigms; afterwards writing down, for improvement of his hand, and

inform

In purſuance of the ſame deſign, in the reign of king *Edward* VI, Mr. *John* ſet forth *new tables of grammar*, ſubſcribed in print by eight lords of the p council.

And, in the reign of king *Charles* I, another attempt was made to bring the to a greater perfection. For which purpoſe *Amos Comenius*, a grammaria great note beyond ſea, was ſent for over, in the year 41, to direct the work: the troubles of thoſe times broke the deſign; which it is to be wiſh'd may be aſſum'd in this happy reign; and that able men may be encourag'd to turn t thoughts effectually to this ſubject.

It is now near 200 years, ſince *Lily*'s grammar was compil'd: and it is hard, if (after ſo many excellent editions as we have had of the claſſics, an great a number of critical and grammatical obſervations as Europe has p duc'd ſince that time) we ſhould not be furniſh'd with materials enow, to f *a grammar* in every reſpect ſo much *ſuperior to that*, as abundantly to over-bal all the inconveniencies, that can poſſibly attend the exchange of it.

formation of his head, as many as ll be found neceſſary to make n expert in the application of his tterns. By this means he will in the knowlege and uſe of every ng, before he is aware; without king upon what he does as a task, being alarm'd at the account he to give of his leſſon to his ma-. What he has thus got with-e, he will repeat with pleaſure; often doing of which he will able, in his mind alſo, to have a dy recourſe to his rules and pat-ns, on every occaſion; without trouble of getting, forgetting, d getting again and again; as is ceſſary, when the memory is arg'd with a great ſtock of jargon; h as the greateſt part of gram-r muſt be to children, in what ords ſoever expreſs'd, or how well ver contriv'd.

HAVING thus offer'd what I prehend may be of ſervice to the blic; I beg leave to add a word, way of *apology*, for myſelf. I am not inſenſible how open I lie to cavil, and raillery; the nature of the deſign obliging me to ſay a good deal, that may ſeem to ſavor of too much reſpect for myſelf, and too little for others. But, I truſt, it will be conſider'd, that, in an attempt at any thing extraordinary, it is impoſſible, however neceſſary it may be to attain the end, either to point at the excellencies one aims at without an air of vanity; or to ſhow another his faults without the appearance of ill-natur'd rudeneſs, or inſolent civility. And, as I have endeavor'd, in both theſe particulars, to be as inoffenſive as the nature of the thing would bear: I am willing to flatter myſelf that I ſhall not ſuffer in the opinion of the wiſe and learned; whatever hard names ſome unwary people, who are too haſty to judge and to be angry, may be tempted to beſtow upon me, on the account of my preſuming to do what might better have been done by many other hands.

A LETTER to Mr. Boye

Concerning the INSUFFICIENCY of his *French Gramma*

SIR,

HAving lately finish'd my Rudiments of *the Latin* and *Italian* tongues, I am now entering upon *the French*. As I have the advantage of so many great grammarians as have gone before me, and furnish'd me with most of the materials, without any labor of my own; I hope, by *the peculiarity of my method*, to set that language in a better light than it ever yet appear'd in. In doing this, I must own my very great obligations to *your excellent Grammar*; which, as you are pleas'd to observe, in your preface to the last edition, *has almost entirely drown'd all other works of the same kind.*

NOT but that I would gladly desist from the enterprize, were I apprehensive of your designing us so great a service. But, as you have entitled your grammar *the Compleat French Master*; and do assure us that *you have found no reason to alte retract any thing you had writ and twenty years ago:* I do not there is any likelihood of expe any further improvements from

HOWEVER, I am willing to h and therefore, to excite your curio this way, which may have bee verted by other regards; and to gage you, if possible, in so u an undertaking: you will pardon if I present you with *a small s men of observations on one article* to shew the necessity of your viewing, with a stricter attent even the last edition of your wo in order to render it *compleat*; to cut-out others from attemp any thing of the like nature.

I HAVE indeed been disappoi in a like design of drawing-o gentleman of reputation into the vice of his country; though u many and indispensible obligati I mean *the Reverend Dr. Fr* M

ſter of Weſtminſter-ſchool, who the heart to be unmov'd in a tter of ſuch moment: but I hope ter things of you, though under thouſand times leſs obligations[7]; d therefore have taken the liberty give you this trouble.

THE *obſervations* are what occurr'd me, upon reading the following ords in the 27th page of your mmar: *There are rules to know genders of ſubſtantives: but they ſo many, ſo intricate, ſo tedious, liable to ſo many exceptions; that beſt and eaſieſt way is to learn m in My* Royal Dictionary: *in ich I have been very exact in ſet- down the gender of every noun.* on this give me leave to obſerve *In the firſt place*, that how-many, ricate, and tedious-ſoever the rules gender have been in other gram- rs; there was no reaſon for you be deterr'd from enterpriſing to tify the miſmanagement (1) ſince article is full as *neceſſary* as any; and may be repreſented in a mo- ate compaſs. What could not have done, when I myſelf have uc'd the doctrin of them into ſix n verſes, and only a ſmall liſt of icular words, ſetting aſide ſuch ery rarely occur either in talking writing? (3) This article too is more neceſſary to be explain'd in rammatical way: becauſe, *Secondly*, There is no other way doing it to any purpoſe; and what you recommend as the beſt and eaſieſt way of learning the genders of nouns, to wit, in your Royal Dictionary; you will, upon a little conſideration, I believe, allow to be *utterly impoſſible*. Who can you imagin, how-deſirous ſoever of learning the language, that would not ſhrink at the thought of getting even the uſual words in your Dictionary with the Engliſh? and, yet, by reaſon of the likeneſs of many of the words to thoſe of the Engliſh, and other languages, which he may underſtand, it would be incomparably far eaſier ſo to do, than to remember what words you mark with an *M*, and which with an *F*; when there is not the leaſt connexion, reſemblance, or token, any-way to aſſiſt the memory. It is true, you have the authority of ſome great grammarians, who have been guilty of this omiſſion, particularly *Buffier*, *Derbaud*, *Deſmarais*, and others: but, to what purpoſe is it to be punctual in all other articles, to prevent abſurdities in ſpeech; and, by paſſing-over this, to expoſe us to the moſt ſhocking ſoleciſms in almoſt-every ſentence we utter. *I believes you am a good ſcholars* is not a greater impropriety in Engliſh, than we have a chance of falling-into in French, every adjective we uſe; unleſs we firſt look for the ſubſtantive, we have occaſion-for, in your Dictio-

The rather, becauſe I find, by the laſt edition of your grammar, you had ſo h regard to the public and your own character, as to ſpend one half of your ace in vindicating your work from ſome objections of Mr. *Henley*; though his rvations amount to no more than this: "*The grammar of Mr.* Boyer *is guilty ſome errors: as, in the nature of* diphthongs, *the number of* articles, *the definition* analogy, *and counterchanging the places and nature of a* colon *and* ſemicolon. *ld, that his rules about the* tone *in reading do properly belong to rhetoric, and that* ymology *is not ſtrictly a part of grammar.* Henl. pref. to the Fr. gr. p. 8.

nary; or remember whether you have put an *M*, or an *F*, after it. But,

Thirdly, Were it poſſible to learn the genders of nouns the way you recommend; yet, notwithſtanding your exactneſs in ſetting-down the gender of every word; you will find perhaps, on a review, that, either through the fault of the preſs, or your own inadvertence (which is not at-all to be wonder'd-at in ſo great a work) not-a-few errors are crept into it[8]; that make it the more neceſſary to add a ſupplement to your Grammar, in order to ſet the doctrin of genders in a better light.

FOR, what can a learner do, or what depend upon? when he finds, *in your Royal Dictionary*[9], that

I. Either the words themſelves are wanting: as, *aſphodele*, *coliſée*, *curace*, *curage*, *diaſtole*, *enflure*, *equinoxe*, *gorge-rouge*, *pantometre*, *paſſ pomme*, *ſyſtole*, *&c.*

II. Or ſome particular ſpelling as, *agraphe*, Touch. gram. p. 8 *colure*, 87, *hombre*, Le petit appa roy. 454. *coturne*, Touch. 87. *hyp griphe*, 88. *muſque*, 89. *quadre*, 8 *ſimeterre*, Boy. gram. p. 205. *ſchur* Touch. 90. *ſtile*, 90.

III. Or ſome particular ſenſe, which the word is us'd with a di ferent gender: as *haire*, S. M. a fo of play, *&c.*

IV. Or the words are repeat with a different gender: as *Vigog* S. F. vigone. *Vigogne*, S. M. gone, *&c.*

V. Or no notice is taken of t gender: as in *abonnement*, *abo abouriſſement*, *chauve-ſouris*, *ch d'oeuvre*, *crac*, *dunes*, *hydrogra pat*, *pataraffe*, *tarare*, *teſtacée*, *t pointe*, *viſorium*, &c.

VI.

8 Even in *the laſt edition* of it. In which I obſerve there is an advertiſem ſignifying that *it was carefully revis'd by the author, and that ſeveral material er that had crept into the former impreſſion, had been corrected by him.* I made uſe ind of *the third edition*, which I had by me: but afterwards finding that there wa fourth; I did not doubt but moſt of the errors, I had remark'd, were correcte it; and therefore employ'd my amanuenſis to examin it. But, inaſmuch as, a having gone through a good many of the words, he did not find any difference ſo m as in one inſtance: I was unwilling he ſhould ſpend his time in comparing al them; having reaſon enough, as I ſuppoſe, to conclude, that the fourth edi was ſo far from being revis'd by Mr. *Boyer*; that (I) not only even the moſt evi and abſur'd errors of the preſs are preſerv'd in it [e. g. (1) *un Francois*, S. F frenchman. (2) *Bernardines*, S. M. a ſort of nuns. (3) *Guenipe*, S. M. a ſlut trollop. (4) *Imitatrice*, S. M. an imitatrix. (5) *Tripotiere*, S. M. the miſtreſs tennis-court,] (II) But new ones alſo are added: of which (were it not beſide purpoſe) I could give ſeveral inſtances. So that, all things conſider'd, *this ad tiſement concerning the fourth edition of your dictionary* (whatever advantage the bo ſellers might propoſe to themſelves by it) will be of little ſervice to your own putation.

9 I mean the Epitome *in octavo*; which you know is in abundance more h than the work *in quarto*; and which therefore I ought to ſuppoſe you were alt ther as careful to make full as correct; eſpecially as you have inform'd us, in preface to the abridgment, that, *excepting thoſe phraſes, which ſerve only for illu tion, it has all the advantages which the publick have been pleas'd to find in your quarto dictionary.*

VI Or the gender is miſtaken [10]: when you make thoſe words — ASCULIN, which are (1) Femi-: e. g. *bernardines, buvette, ca-des, chelidoine, chymie, coloſane, ombe, cravate, curatelle, epitre, ſilade, facade, foret, gencive, lle, guenipe, imitatrice, immatri-e, immondice, interligne, juſqui-e, lanche, laudes, lige, myrrhe, eſſion, ſodomie, ſtupeur, ſurpriſe, re, tiedeur, tripotiere*, &c. (2) ommon: e. g. *dialecte, doute, ne, epiſode, eveché, flaſque, groupe, roſcope, litre, minuit, ofertoire, ſcule, poiſon, relache, reproche, ere, uſtencile*, &c. (3) Different, cording to their different ſignifi-tion: e. g. *eſpace, evangile, me-ire, ordre, ouvrage, regale, tri-phe*, &c. —— FEMININ, which (1) Maſculin: e. g. *able, amar-ge, anecdotes, artifice, avenage, daudage, biſtouri, cahotage, came-n, cantique, caprice, debardage, ctionaire, echapatoire, empeſage, tement, etablage, fermage, frican-au, genitoires, greſil, havre, he-iſphere, hoche-queuë, incendie, lai-ge, libertinage, malefice, manipule, eleagris, microſcope, miniſtere, mi-is, parmeſan, paſſerage, paſſe-paſſe, aſſe-velours, philtre, planiſphere, receptes, promontoire, ſaniclet, ſauf-nduit, ſocque, ſorbet, viſcres, vi-rage*, &c. (2) Common: e. g. *ab-nthe, date, enigme, equivoque, er-eur, fourmi, idole, inſomnie, men-ſonge, navire, orgue, regliſſe, riſdale, tariere, theriaque, yvoire*, &c. (3) Different, according to their different ſignification or combination: e. g. *choſe, haire, regale*, &c. —— COMMON, which are (1) Maſculin: e. g. *cartouche, emonctoires*, &c. (2) Feminin: e.g. *enſeigne, ſurdent*, &c. (3) Different, according to their different ſignification or ſituation: e. g. *amour, gens, foudre, periode, pivoine*, &c. —— DIFERENT, which do not differ: e. g. *cale, minime, orge, paroi*, &c.

VII. Or one gender is ſignified by the letters M or F, and another by the examples: e. g. *Lie*, M. *de la lie*, &c. *Chape*, M. *la chape*, &c. *Dent*, F. *un dent*, &c. *Navire*, F. *un navire de guerre*, &c.

VIII. Or one gender is given in your dictionary, and another in your grammar: e. g. m. *billet-doux*, f. 187. [that is, in the 187th page of the laſt edition of your grammar you make *billet-doux* feminin; whereas, in your dictionary, you make it maſculin. You will allow this explanation of my way of repreſenting the following obſervations: becauſe you will hereby take notice of them, with more eaſe, and in much leſs compaſs than if I had deſcanted upon each of them particularly.] f. *caprice*, m. 339. m. *collet*, f. 170. f. *corme*, m. 197. m. *cravate*, f. 256. f. *epaule*, m. 174. m. *epitre*, f. 187. f. *faine*, m. 197. f. *fleche*, m. 173.

m. f.

[10] In ſome of the following words, of which you have given a wrong gender, it is true, there are other dictionaries of note that agree with you [as that of (1) the ACADEMIE in *foret, interligne, lige, tiedeur*. (2) DANET in *hemiſphere*. (3) FURETIERE in *paſſe-rage*. (4) RICHELET in *laudes*, &c.] But you will hardly, I believe, contend for the authority of a ſingle dictionary (eſpecially in a caſe where errors of the preſs may ſooneſt happen) againſt the concurring teſtimonies of Grammarians, and other Lexicographers,

m. f. *foudre*, f. 164. m. *gencive*, f. 166. f. *gorge-rouge*, m. 191. f. *hoche-queuë*, m. 191. m. *lie*, f. 174. f. *ligne*, m. 193. f. *navire*, m. 199. f. *paſſe-velours*, m. 196. m. *pouvoir*, f. 337. f. *rouge-gorge*, m. 191. f. *ruë*, m. 182.

IX. Or one gender is given in one part of your dictionary, another in the other: as *Parc*, M. a park: a park *une parc*. *Pâtache*, F. a pinnace: an advice-boat *un pâtache d'a* *Theſe things conſider'd* (though h ſmall ſpecimen of what migh added, were it neceſſary) you I hope, now be induc'd to th that one very material article at l is wanting, to render your wo what you deſign'd it, *compleat*; that, how-difficult-ſoever you m apprehend it, there is no doing w without it.

A Hin

A
INT to Mr. ALTIERI
FOR THE
ADVANTAGE of his *Italian Grammar.*

IR,

BY an advertiſement, *Auguſt* 9, 1727, I underſtand you are about an *Italian* grammar. As you have lately com- a dictionary, and have the ad- age of the obſervations of thoſe have writ before you: you to be better qualified for ſuch ork than any that have hitherto mpted it. For this reaſon, though d then printed *a table of Italian iments* which I drew up for the of his Royal Highneſs the Duke Cumberland; I have forbore to iſh it, in hopes of ſeeing the na- better ſerv'd by ſo able a hand. ou will therefore be pleas'd to ider what you have undertaken *matter of moment*; that you finiſh it to the beſt advantage, general ſatisfaction.

obſerve, we have had at leaſt *new Italian grammars* within compaſs of the laſt year: a great ſign that the language is now in high eſteem; as indeed it well deſerves on the account of its uſefulneſs in commerce, its copia for eloquence, and its delicacy for muſic. Nor are there wanting Vocabularies, Familiar dialogues, Amuſing inſtructors, and other proper means of learning it by rote: but, as to *the grounds of the language*, we are, I think, ſtill unprovided of a plain, ſuccinct, and rational account of them.

Of all, that have yet written, Abbot *Antonini* ſeems to bid faireſt for the beſt character: who, as he informs us, has apply'd himſelf all his life-time, to the ſtudy of this language; perus'd above a hundred grammars of it; remark'd above three hundred groſs faults, beſides omiſſions, in *Veneroni*; and (by the command, and for the uſe of the *queen* of France; in regard to his own intereſt, and the honor of his country

grammar ITALIAN *gra*

country) compos'd one; in which he hopes he has put matters in a better order than thoſe who have gone before him, and ſaid all that can be ſaid upon every article.

How-well-ſoever he may be thought to have ſucceeded in this eſſay; nobody, I believe, will doubt but that *Mine* is digeſted in a more natural, eaſy, and inſtructive method; if it ſhall appear (what I have ventur'd to affirm) that, in the compaſs of *half-a-ſheet*, I have preſented, *at one view*, as comprehenſive an account of the grounds of the language, as he has done in *four hundred eighty two pages in octavo*.

NOR is the caſting-out of ſo much tautology and ſuperfluity as ſuch grammars muſt be over-charg'd with, to the great diſmay of learners, the only advantage of a ſcheme ſo ſhort and methodical: but, as I have form'd it upon the plan of the latin, upon which the gramm all other languages may al form'd: beſide the advantages from the peculiarity of the me the learning of any one will *key to the reſt*, and wonderfull cilitate the learning of all.

YET, notwithſtanding all pains and care I have taken to cel all that have writ before m ſhould be glad to ſee myſelf done; and my countrymen p ded with *a better:* as I cannot be more ſolicitous for the ſatisfa of multitudes than for a tri gratification to myſelf. If I Yours *ſo*; the world ſhall neve troubled with Mine: if not; I think myſelf oblig'd to give reaſons, why I judge the public of it not-unneceſſary. In the time I wiſh you a hearty reſol and much ſucceſs.

A Challe

A CHALLENGE to Dr. FREIND Concerning the WESTMINSTER GRAMMAR.

SIR,

IT is far from being a pleaſure to me to find fault: but where *a reformation* is neceſſary; ſomething muſt be done open people's eyes, and remove ir prejudices.

Notwithſtanding a multitude of xcuſable faults in the grammar u teach, which I have put you in nd of already; you are content, I d, though you admit of alterans from year to year, ſtill to let come abroad in almoſt as bad a ndition as ever. So that, by the re force of reputation, and the indolence of thoſe that are concern'd, it is likely to continue *a great impediment* to the progreſs of the flower of our youth.

Out of regard therefore to the public, and from a ſenſe of my duty, I herewith ſend you *another ſpecimen of obſervations*; by which, together with what I have already publiſh'd, you will, I hope, be induc'd to think, that, as a gentleman, as a ſcholar, and as a chriſtian, you are under indiſpenſible obligations either to vindicate your grammar, or to account for your uſing it, or to ſet about the correction of it.

THE FIRST FIFTY LINES

of the etymology and ſyntax of the Weſtminſter gra mar [11], *upon which the following obſervations made.*

ORTHOEPEIA

LITERÆ.

LITERA, ſi praeëat vocalis, pura vocatur;
Ceu [*reus*]: impura eſt, praeëat ſi conſona: ceu [*rus*].
Litera radicalis ineſt ab origine vocis;
Qualiter *As*: flexu ſervilis adhaeret; ut *As-ſis*.
Litera cui Princeps, ſubjecta Vicaria legi eſt.

SYLLABÆ.

APOSTROPHUS.

Index eliſae vocalis, Apoſtrophus haeret
Rariùs initio, bene fini; ut comma ſupernum: *'ſt, men'*

HYPHEN.

Voces, interjecta, duas nota copulat Hyphen [-]. *ante-malorum*.

DIALYSIS.

Dialyſis, punctis in vertice ſcripta duobus,
Vocalem à ſociâ reſolutam ï ſeparat, aut ü. *auraï, ſüavis*.

ET

11 In copying theſe lines, my amanuenſis, who is alſo author of the eme tion of them, aſſures me he has been very exact: I therefore give them on authority; only, to make them more intelligible, I have taken the liberty to above *twenty of the points*: the rather, becauſe their way of pointing is gene inaccurate; and ſometimes very injurious to the ſenſe; either limiting it other than they deſign'd (e. g. *Voces interjecta duas nota copulat Hyphen* [-] ante-malor i. e. *Hyphen between the two words* ante-malorum, &c.) or quite deſtroying it (*Index eliſæ vocalis Apoſtrophus hæret; varius initio, bene fini*, &c.)

As to their uninſtructive *way of printing* it, and their inconſiſtency in the u *the italic letter*; I have made no alteration. Theſe are matters, it is like, bea their notice; of how much conſequence ſoever the curious may think them.

ſt 50 lines WESTMINSTER GRAMMAR *firſt 50 lines*

ETYMOLOGIA.

Analogia & Anomalia vocum.

Omnis vox inflexilis eſt vel Analoga, normae
onſona; vox vel Anomala, normae diſſona. Porro haec
eteroſtoicha eſt; ſi voci ſua litera differt:
genus, aut numerus, caſuſve; Heteroclita dicta eſt.
Vox quoque Contracta eſt, cui bina ligatur in unam
llaba; perque Synaereſin id fit, vel Craſin: illa
rvat, & unit vocales; haec mutat, & unit:
cui cui; *manuiſque manûs*. Linguaſque per omnes
nis contractus pluſquam incontractus in uſu eſt.
Vox. omni in caſu, proque omni, Technica ſervit.
Hominibus eſt Nomen.
rbara vox nec Graeco exit, nec fine Latino. *Adam.*

NOMEN.

Genera Nominum.

Sunt quae, neglecto Proprio, Generale capeſſunt;
genus, affini ductum de nomine, ſumunt.
Faeminium capit Urbs aut Inſula, Gemma vel Arbor;
Maſculeumque genus ſibi Mons, Fluviuſque cooptat.

1 *Narbo pulcherrima.* Mart. 2 *Summus Oeta.* Sen.

REGULAE CASUUM.

Caſus Singulares.

CCUSATIVUS.

Flumina in-is, nec-i quarto, nec variantia ſexto:
is quoque plura, ſitis, ravis, vis, tuſſis, amuſſis.

OCATIVUS.

Propria vox in-ius deponit-us ordine quinto:
Virgil-ius-i, Pompe-ius-i.
vox filius. Una Deus vox, O Deus, effert.

Caſus Plurales.

ENITIVUS.

Monoſyllabon-ûm, -arum, -orum diſſyllaba migrant.
caelicolûm, Deûm.

SYNTAXIS.

Regulat appoſitas Syntaxis congrua voces:
Pars eſt Concordantia, parſque Regentia Vocum:
Dicta triplex, cùm ſit tantùm Concordia duplex;
Et Verbum Subſtantivo unit, & Adjectivum.
Sic Regimen pariter duplex; Casûsque, Modique eſt.
Nec ſolae Partes, ſed Particulae quoque praeſtant
Officium * Concordandi, officiumque Regendi.

* *Cras iſtud, Poſthume, quando venit?* Mart.

CONCORDANTIA.

Verbum, perſonâ & numero, cum nomine recto
Concordat: genere & numero, caſuque cohaeret
Cum ſubſtantivo Adjectivum; uti mobile fixo:
Nec vinc'lum concors Vocum interruptio ſolvit:
Prima ſolet perſona, ſecundaque ſaepe ſileri, et
Tertia; ſi repetenda ſit; articuluſve ſequatur:
Aut ſi vox facilè in verbi ſit cognita ſenſu;
Nempe Homines: Verbumque ſilet ſic Subſtantivum.
Perſonâ et genere Articulus, numeroque relatus
Cum Subſtantivo concordat, clauſula quod dat
Anteïens; quo ſit caſu, at ſua clauſula monſtrat:
Vel verbo eſt Rectus, regiturve a voce propinquâ.
Poſtpoſitum ligat Articulus ſibi Subſtantivum.

SOME OBSERVATIONS

on the firſt fifty lines of the etymology and ſyntax of t Weſtminſter grammar: by which it appears that the are a great many faults of every ſort, and not one ſe tence without ſome.

IN reading the firſt *fifty* lines of the Weſtminſter etymology and ſyntax (which I put into the children's hands, inſtead of a claſſic author; to explain to ſome what they had got by rote, to open t minds of others to different vie of the ſame thing, and to prom the ambition of all by putting it their power to criticiſe) we fou a go

good many faults of every ſort, d *not one ſentence without ſome.* I ſpent but one evening, after y releaſe from other attendances, take an account of them: it is ely I may have omitted ſome; wever the following are ſufficient ſhow how faulty a piece of work is likely to be, in the eaſieſt part which there are ſo many.

PRELIMINARIES.

BUT, before I proceed to the par-cular remarks I have to offer on eſe lines, it may not be improper hint, that *my former Critique on etymology of the Weſtminſter gram-r* was but a ſlight ſpecimen, not-ithſtanding the great number of its there repreſented. So that oſt of theſe I have here mention'd, not all, are what I took no notice there.

IT may be obſerved alſo that I ve not cull'd out a difficult part of e work, to take an advantage: t have pitch'd on *the beginning*; here the attention of an author es to be greateſt; and where, in e nature of the thing, all, that was quir'd to do it well, was but a all ſhare of common ſenſe, and a tle reflexion on their own ideas.

NEITHER have I taken an ad-ntage of *the Conſtruing book*; it is ſadly done, that I cannot find in y heart to charge it to the account any of the maſters, any further an their allowing the uſe of ſuch ſorry tranſlation. I ſhall give but wo inſtances, out of ſeveral, with-the compaſs to which I have confin'd myſelf. (1) *Omnis vox in-exilis eſt vel Analoga, normæ con-ta, vox vel Anomala.* That is, ſay the tranſlators, *every word un-declin'd is either regular, or irregu-lar*; whereas the author of the ori-ginal did, by the word *inflexilis*, though barbarous, without doubt deſign the contrary to what they have tranſlated it. (2) Again, in the original it is well ſaid that *the relative agrees in gender*, &c. *with the ſubſtantive which the preceding clauſe gives:* At, quo ſit caſu, ſua clauſula monſtrat. that is, *but what caſe it is to be of, its own clauſe ſhoweth; for, either it is the nomina-tive to the verb, or*, &c. this, in the original, is plain and juſt: but to be told, in the conſtruing book, that *the ending of the relative ſhows its caſe* (though it were true, as it is not) is ſo abſurd a blunder, that no-thing can excuſe it.

REMARKS.

WHAT I have to obſerve on theſe lines, I ſhall offer under the follow-ing heads:

BLUNDERS, or unaccountable miſtakes in the eaſieſt matters. (1) *Hyphen*, by their title, is *the af-fection of a ſyllable:* and yet, by their definition, it is only *a mark of coupling two words:* as *ante-malorum*. though one would wonder they ſhould make that the only uſe of it, which is hardly to met with; and omit thoſe which are, if not the only uſe of it, at leaſt as common as expreſ-ſing a termination, or dividing a compound word on ſome occaſions, or any word at the end of a line. (2) *Dialyſis* is ſaid *to part* ï *and* ü *from a vowel accompanying it*. where-as every body knows that ë is much more frequently ſo parted, and mark'd. (3) *Heteroſtoichie* in a word

is

blunders ERRORS *bad la*

is (*ſi voci ſua litera differt*, that is, if their own conſtruction has it right, for I do not pretend to be able to conſtrue it) *when one of its letters is chang'd.* Be it ſo: but why then are all the rules of the irregular formations of verbs put under this title, as *pello pepuli pulſus*, &c. where oftentimes moſt of the letters are chang'd. (4) Or, why, under *Heteroclites*; Redundants, as *lini livi*: when, by their definition, *Heteroclites* are confin'd to *thoſe words, wherein the gender, number, or caſe is chang'd*: or (as it ought to be conſtrued) *differs from the rule.* (5) *A Barbarous word*, according to their account of it, *neither has a greek ending, nor a latin one.* What have we to conclude from this, but that thoſe words, which have a greek or latin ending, are not barbarous. If ſo: we are to receive, as claſſic and of good authority, *incertitudinem*, *modernus*, *augmentat*, *proximius*, and above *fifty* more within the compaſs of the etymological part of their grammar; which they have preſum'd to authorize by making uſe of them. But, be that as it will, ſurely *blattotrat*, *blictri*, &c. are barbarous words; and yet I ſuppoſe it will be allow'd that they have latin endings. (6) It may be obſerv'd here alſo that they deſign'd to give us the definition of *a Technical word*, that the term might be underſtood, where-ever they ſhould have occaſion to mention it. Inſtead of that, they tell us that *Technical word, in any caſe, ſer for any caſe:* not aware that t was only ſaying it was an Apto as they afterwards tell us. Beſi they ſhould have conſider'd, that, their manner of expreſſion, child would be induc'd to think that words could be us'd Technical but ſuch as have caſes: which th well know is what they never ſign'd to ſuggeſt.

BAD LATIN, in a latin gra mar, is ſomething prepoſtero and indeed one would wonder h either Dr. *Busby* could be guilty it [12], or his ſucceſſors bear with I do allow that there may be a luable advantage in the uſe of ſo terms judiciouſly coin'd: but, wh there is no ſuch reaſon, I can but look on ſuch innovations as opening the flood-gates to an in dation of barbarity; which wo ſoon corrupt, and well-nigh deſtr this moſt uſeful language. T reader will be pleas'd to obſer that, in ſpeaking of Barbarity, I the word as all the world und ſtands it: for, as theſe gentlem unwarily define it, a greek or l ending will ſave the credit of a word; ſo that it might innocen be ſaid (on the authority of th definition) *Doctor Freindus allo non ſolum Law-latinum, ſed etiam D latinum.* But, to be ſure, th cannot mean what they ſay; a therefore they themſelves muſt co

12 Eſpecially conſidering with what ſcrupulous niceneſs he is for baniſh out of children's mouths an old and well-known term in grammar [*ſupinum*] the account of its being barbarous: *Barbara grammaticae vox, nullis cognita lingu ſola quibus legitur, non intellecta latinis, eucidat e manibus puerorum aliquando ſu* num. *Busb. gram. p.* 112.

n the following (1) Barbarisms: *ordantia. congrua. incontractus. xilis. interruptio. regentia. regu- unit.* (2) Solecisms: *Hetetostoicha si voci sua litera differt. Technica servit pro omni casu.* (3) Poor ts: as when *ordine quinto*, &c. ometimes us'd for the *vocative*, sometimes for the *fifth declen-*

BAD VERSE, was there no great m in it, will hardly be excus'd such as have a delicate ear, or a rd to the quantity of syllables: ecially in a grammar compos'd the use of a great school; where fication is in great vogue; and a great man, who, by the title introduction, seems to have had ore than ordinary value for mea- e and cadence [13]. The more in- usable, on this account, are the owing instances of (1) False ntity: —— *syllaba; perque synae- n id fit, vel Crāsin: illa* —— *alysis punctis in vertice scripta bus:* —— *Hĕterostoicha est, si voci litera differt:* —— *rarius ĭnitio, e fini; ut comma supernum:* —— *ipria vox in-ius deponit-us ordine nto:* —— I might add also, *ut cui: manuisque manus*: but it is ely, though in their prosody they ke *i* long in *cuï*, they may know, m other systems, that *Martial* taken the liberty to make it rt. (2) Of *Cacophony* different s may make a different judgment: t little I think can be said for those rses, wherein mere terminations, in which all the emphasis of the thought lies, are —— either quite lost by preposterous elisions: as *in mona- syllabon -um, -arum -orum dissyllaba migrant:* —— or must be run off quick, though the sound be naturally long: as *flumina in -is nec ī quarto, nec variantia sexto.* (3) Nor is it pretty to eke-out a verse with —— unnecessary words, as *vox (quoque) contracta est*, &c. —— or such as clog the sense: as *vocalem a socia (resolutam) separat*, &c. *Sunt quæ generale (capessunt &) genus affini (ductum) de nomine sumunt.* —— Especially when they lead into mi- stakes: as *sic (vox) filius. (una) deus (vox) o deus effert:* —— or when it would be more natural and easy to fill it up with useful observations: for instance *flumina in-is nec-i quarto nec variantia sexto: (His quoque plura) sitis, ravis, vis, tussis, amussis:* without this unnatural filling-up there had been room for a more general precept; or at least for some more of the particular words, which they have omitted,

OBSCURITY, of all faults, is the most unpardonable in what is de- sign'd for the instruction of children; especially when those instructions are writ in a language they are to learn: and yet so remarkably faulty are these gentlemen in this respect, that I will venture to say one general thing; because I believe every body, that is a judge, will agree with me in it, that the *Westminster grammar*, as if it had been design'd for a gar- land

13 *Rudiment. gramm. metric.* Visum est grammaticae metricis lenire laborem eceptis: neque enim mentem effugientia vanum est principia, in causa puero- , adstringere vinclis; lingua tenax, quae vix animus capit, ut cito pro- t. p. 1.

want of definitions, &c. OBSCURITY *want of examples*,

land of grammatical riddles, *is the moſt unintelligible ſyſtem that ever was publiſh'd.* And therefore I do not ſo much wonder, that, in their conſtruing-book, they are ſo often at a loſs to make out the meaning: ſo that the engliſh, they give us, is generally as dark as the latin; and ſometimes conveys a quite different idea. Now this obſcurity is in ſome meaſure owing to bad latin, bad printing, and an uniform letter: but more, to a wrong way of thinking in the contrivance of the work. What occurs of this nature, in theſe *fifty* lines, may be conſider'd under the following heads. (1) *Want of neceſſary definitions.* For inſtance, *the adjective agrees with the ſubſtantive, ut mobile fixo.* Theſe indeed, though uſeleſs here, are grammatical terms: but, as they are little us'd, and are of themſelves unintelligible (no wonder therefore they are darker in the conſtruing-book, where they are tranſlated *as a moveable thing with a fix'd*) we ought to have been help'd, by a definition, to have conſtrued them *as a ſort of word, that is capable, by altering its termination, of anſwering to the gender of a ſort of word, that is not.* The ſame may be ſaid, and with more reaſon, of ſuch terms as are of their own coining: e. g. *Heterologues, Heterogenes*, &c. (2) *Improper or imperfect definitions:* wherein either no notion at all is convey'd, or a very wild one. Of this nature is their account of radical and ſervile letters. *A radical letter* ſay they, *is-in from the beginning of the word, as* as: *a ſervile letter keeps to it in declining*; *as* as-ſis: the deſign of this will appear from the emendation underneath: the faultineſs of it, by the following queſtions. W not the four laſt letters in *muſ-ar* (at leaſt the laſt but three) in fr the beginning of the word? even from the firſt uſe of the wo which muſt be the meaning of expreſſion, if we take the wo in their proper ſenſe.] Yes. W then they are radical. Again, not the three firſt letters of *arum* keep to it in declining? Why then they are ſervile. Th it appears, that the words (as as one can gueſs at the ſenſe them) may be underſtood to m the *contrary* of what was deſig by them. (3) *Want of examp* This is ſo common a fault w them, that there are not above ſ examples in all ſyntax, even in laſt edition. To give one inſtan I ſhould hardly have hit upon meaning of this expreſſion: *the th perſon is wont to be underſtood be to be repeated*; had it not b explain'd in the introduction (thou without an example, according cuſtom) by ſaying that *the p perſon is often underſtood, if it been mention'd before.* (4) *Alter the uſual terms, without neceſſity advantage:* A ſynonymous wo unleſs generally receiv'd; or a p phraſis, how well ſoever adapted expreſs the thought; are ſo far fro being right; that they only encre the gibberiſh of the art, and the bor of the learner. This too is common a fault, that it ſeems have been affected out of a miſtak notion of beauty. There is an ſtance of this in the fifth lin where *litera princeps* ſtands for dicalis, and *vicaria* (though imp perly enough) for *ſervilis*; as I a induc'd to ſuppoſe from the ſitu

n of the line, and their conſtruc-
n of it. for I confeſs that I do
t pretend to underſtand it.

SUPERFLUITIES in their ſy-
m, are the more inexcuſable, as
ey affect a brevity that is incon-
ent with perſpicuity: witneſs
ir want of definitions, examples,
c. But I ſhall not trouble the rea-
r with a liſt of them, many of
em being obvious from the emen-
ions underneath: which in the
mpaſs of twenty one verſes, ſet-
g aſide the tautologies they have
clared againſt [14], contains the ſub-
nce of their fifty; and, in my
inion, with much more accuracy,
d plainneſs. So eaſy a matter
ould it be for them to correct,
hat it is ſo great a ſhame ſhould
ſo much amiſs.

DEFECTS, even in the prelimi-
aries there are not-a-few: but,
hen you enter upon the doctrin of
ords, they are innumerable. To
ve but one inſtance, Their account
gender by ſignification amounts
no more than this *Feminea urbs, arbor, gemma, inſula: Maſculea mons, & fluvius:* and yet it takes up near a page in my ſyſtem, which I affirm to be much more compendious than any; and nine or ten of the lines too are general obſervations, that comprehend innumerable particulars.

IN the following emendation therefore, *the orders* I gave to the lad, that was the author of it, were only *to explain the riddles, correct the errors, and cut-off the ſuperfluities.* That all this has not been done by themſelves, and the defects ſupply'd throughout the whole; after ſo long experience as they have had, and ſo many alterations as it has undergone ever ſince the days of Dr. *Buſby*, the great author of this *perfect work, and treaſury of the art*, as they are pleas'd to call even his firſt draught of it [15]; eſpecially conſidering the great truſt that is repos'd in them, and the big expectations people have from them: is what I do not underſtand how either they can account-for, or their patrons connive-at.

14 In hoc opuſculo nihil dictum invenies, quod in anglica inſtitutione dictum ius. *Rudim. in us. nob. puerul. praef. p.* 1.

15 Quicunque ampliores in literis progreſſus facere, & totius artis grammaticæ eſauros recludere deſideret: grammaticam conſulat Busbeianam; opus quanquam ſthumum, perfectum tamen, authore ſuo nequaquam indignum. *Rudim. metr. ef. p.* 2.

E AN

AN EMENDATION

of the firſt fifty lines of the etymology and ſyntax of t Weſtminſter grammar, done by THOMAS CORBE *a lad of fourteen years of age, and three years ſtan ing.*

Definitiones.

LITER *A*, poſt vocalem, PURA; alias IMPURA eſt. RADICALES primae voce locantur: ut *ann-us*; poſtea SERVILES flexu mutantur: ut *ann-i*.

Index eliſae vocalis APOSTROPHUS; HYPHEN finis, vel vocis diviſae: ſeparat *i*, *u*, aut *e*, de conſorte DIAERESIS: ut *viden'*, *a-ër*.

Vocales ſervat, jungitque SYNÆRESIS: ut *cui*, de *cuï*; CRASI fit mutatio: ut *aſtuis aſtus*. (N B) Plus non contracto contractus finis in uſu eſt.

Quando intelligitur *verbum*, vox TECHNICA dicta eſt: ut *facis* eſt verbum; quaſi dicas vox ea verbum eſt. BARBARA vox dicta eſt non-uſurpata Latinis.

De Genere nominum Propriorum.

Sunt Propriis genera, a fini diverſa, quibuſdam; quae de Communi deſumunt nomine: ut *Oeta*, ſeminei finis; mas'cla, ad *mons* ſi referatur. ſic *fluvius*: ſic, contra, *urbs*, *gemma*, atque *inſula*, & *arbor*.

De Acc. & Abl. Tertiae Decl.

-IM quarto, *-I* ſexto, faciunt propria fluviorum nomina in *-is*; *ſitis*, & *ravis*, *vis*, *tuſſis*, *amuſſis*.

De Vocativo Secundae.

-I fit *-ius* proprium: ſic *filius*: o *deus* eſto.

De Genit. Plural. Tertiae.

-UM genitivo, *-arum* atque *-orum* pluralia fiunt.

SYNTAXIS.

Saepe ſilet Verbum *eſt*; et, quem ſententia verbi prae ſe fert, Rectus.

FINIS.